

I delivered the Democratic Hispanic Radio Address on Saturday, June 9, 2007. The topic of the address was immigration. You can [download the podcast](#) or [read the transcription in Spanish](#) . The audio of the address was on local Univisión Radio, Latino Broadcasting Company, Radio Fórmula, Radiovisa, Radio Bilingüe, and CNN en Español Radio affiliates after 11:06 a.m. ET on Saturday.

The translated text of the address in English appears below:

Good morning. I am Congressman Mike Honda from California. This morning I want to talk to you about an issue that concerns House Democrats, folks in my district in Santa Clara County, California, and all immigrant communities in the United States: immigration. The immigration debate of the last year resonates with me personally because my grandparents were immigrants from Japan. Many years ago, they came to this country with the same dreams that immigrants today have: the hope that one day, their children and grandchildren would have a better life and opportunities to succeed. I hope I have made them proud. Regardless of the Senate Republicans failure to act this week, our country needs to support a critical pillar of this great country: our immigrant communities. Why? Because we are a nation of immigrants. From our country's inception, generation after generation of newcomers have come here and contributed to our great country with the sweat of their labor, new ideas, and rich cultural and family traditions. It is time for the U.S. Congress to honor the promise of America. Our immigration system should recognize the enormous contributions that immigrants make to our nation. But we must do so in a way that makes us safer, protects workers and restores the rule of law. This week, the Republicans in the Senate blocked an immigration bill that attempts to fix our nation's dysfunctional immigration system. The road was long and hard, and the bill was far from perfect. But at the end of the day, a bill would have been a starting point to address this critical issue for our nation. Now the House will study what our options are in regard passing a bipartisan immigration bill. A good bill for our nation is one that secures our borders and enforces our laws, while also protecting against discrimination and adhering to the rule of law. It is one that regularizes the status of the 12 million undocumented immigrants who now work and live here. It is a bill that allows us to must meet our economy's need for additional workers when they are needed and ensure that there are strict labor protections for all workers. And finally, a good bill is one that promotes family unification because family values are American values, and this tenant has been central to our immigration policy. The President has an obligation to the American people to pass a strong, bipartisan and comprehensive immigration reform. During the entire process, Democrats have been committed to fixing a problem that this Administration and past Republican Congresses have ignored for years. And now that they had a chance to act in the interests of the American people, Republicans chose not to. The President failed to pressure his party to work collaboratively with Senate Democrats to get an effective and fair immigration reform. The President and Republicans have failed the American people. We look toward the future and hope that President Bush and our Republican colleagues in both chambers will work with Democrats to get the job done. This is Miguel Honda, Congressman from California. Thank you for listening.